

STONES MISS MACKIE

LEYTONSTONE, the side that ended Bishop's Stortford's unbeaten run of 31 matches last week, could be without their experienced goalkeeper Tony Mackie for tomorrow night's (Wednesday) crucial Rothmans Isthmian League encounter at home to Wycombe Wanderers — the first of a two match programme that could well decide the championship.

Mackie took a bad knock on his hand in the first three minutes of Saturday's Essex Senior Cup-final, second leg, which the Stones lost 1-0 and 4-0 on aggregate to Walthamstow Avenue. Mackie's replacement will be either John Murphy or Martin Humphries.

This is not the only injury Leytonstone have had to combat recently. Graham Parker, a former West Ham youngster, is also doubtful, while Bobby Page may not be fit in time.

Parker was one of the men mainly responsible for Stortford's downfall. He scored both the Stones' goals to pull off one of the shocks of the season, with John Dear's reply too late to alter the outcome. It was Stortford's first defeat since October 6 but they regained their winning form on Saturday with a 2-1 Hertfordshire Senior Cup-final against Athenian Leaguers Cheshunt.

Two of the casualties, Page and Fred Claydon, are the club's top goalscorers this season, followed by Bill Ratty and John Brookes. Claydon, however, had a run out in the reserves last week and should be in with a good chance of playing.

Wanderers should be able to select their team from a full strength squad. There were no injuries from last night's incident packed 2-2 draw against Walton and Hersham and manager Brian Lee is likely to retain the same side, with Phil Wood possibly starting the match as substitute.